

#### TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org
The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission
Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director
Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist
Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

# TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

**Today's Theme:** The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the Word and in the Eucharist we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

**Prayer As You Enter:** O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

# CALL TO WORSHIP

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Return, beloved of God, to the fold. God welcomes you to this hour of prayer.

God calls us by name and awaits our coming. God summons us out of hiding.

Worship the one who longs for our coming. Sing praise to the one who expects our faithfulness.

We call on God, who gives us life. May God's face shine on us to save us.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

# **CONFESSION OF SINS**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us.

God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and shame.

Let us silently confess our sin before God. (SEATED OR KNEELING)

#### SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Gracious God, we come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you. Show us your mercy, O God. Bind up our wounds, forgive us our sins, and free us to love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

#### **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### COLLECT FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Lord of the vineyard, we ask for your presence and your guidance. In your holy wisdom, tend the vines of our hearts. Teach us your righteousness, that our lives may flower with justice. We come as wild grapes, yearning to grow fruitful in your love. Show us the way, through Jesus your Son, to discern your will, hear your word, and grow in your ways, as we deepen the roots of our faith. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

#### TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

# THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings about a beautiful vineyard, carefully planted and cultivated, that nevertheless yields wild grapes. The owner therefore determines to destroy the vineyard, which represents the sinful people of Israel and Judah.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

#### THE PSALTER

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of your flock.

Seated on your throne above the winged creatures, reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Show us your strength; come and save us!

You brought a grapevine out of Egypt; you drove out other nations and planted it in their land.

You cleared a place for it to grow; its roots went deep, and it spread out over the whole land.

It covered the hills with its shade; its branches overshadowed the giant cedars

It extended its branches to the Mediterranean Sea and as far as the Euphrates River.

Why did you break down the fences around it? Now anyone passing by can steal its grapes; wild hogs trample it down, and wild animals feed on it.

Turn to us, Almighty God! Look down from heaven at us; come and save your people!

Come and save the grapevine that you planted, this young vine you made grow so strong!

Our enemies have set it on fire and cut it down; look at them in anger and destroy them!

Preserve and protect the people you have chosen, the nation you have made so strong.

We will never turn from you again; keep us alive, and we will praise you. Bring us back, Lord God Almighty. Show us your mercy, and we will be saved.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

#### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

**SERMON** 

"Running the Race"

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# PEOPLE'S OFFERING

#### OFFERING DEDICATION

Gracious God, whose creative power has filled all heaven and earth with good things for us to enjoy and share, we would honor you with our offerings. May the ministries we initiate and the outreach we support bear fruits of justice and peace. We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfector of our faith, as our model in facing all circumstances and giving ourselves for others. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

#### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us. Have we not heard? Have we not known? In the beginning, you swept across the earth with your Spirit of life and renewal. When we forgot or neglected your truth, you redeemed us and renewed us. From the earth's first gardens to the mountaintop storms, you have spoken to us, and entrusted us to be your people. From laws on tablets to warnings from prophets, you have spoken your truth and renewed your covenant with us, reviving us and reclaiming us through your grace and love. And so, with your people on earth, with all of creation, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ to reveal your powerful love for the world. Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, welcoming any and all, Christ continues to reveal your presence, renewing our souls even now. Through Christ's powerful love and endless grace, we

are invited into your presence, rescued from our sins, and led onto your path of justice and righteousness. In Christ's grace, you renew and reclaim us as your holy people, children of mercy and truth. As children of your covenant of love, sealed by water and the Spirit, welcome now with joy and gratitude, remembering how Jesus shared bread and wine, renewing and reviving the lives of his closest friends, his most faithful disciples, even as they faced their deepest fears and their greatest sins.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

#### THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#### BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

#### (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our brothers and sisters in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by all forms of discrimination. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Arise, O God, and sustain this congregation. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

#### SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Loving God, in this Holy Communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# **CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

#### **BENEDICTION**

## CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chancel Flowers are given by Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman in honor of our President and our military.

The Worship Aids are given by Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman to celebrate Christine Oetama and her inspirational and beautiful music in our worship services.

Money Counters: Bud & Kathy McCarty, Scott Owens, Jeff

Hackenberger, John Shelsky

Building Trustee: Hank Fox Lector: Rev. Sandy Morris

Altar Guild: Nancy Enders

## Happy Birthday!

Today – Pete Rohrer

Tuesday – Donna Esbenshade, Carmen Richards

Wednesday – Jane Portser

Thursday – John Bailey

Friday – Thomas Dennnes, Chuck Husted

Saturday – Don Miller, Pastor Chris Rankin

Attendance for Sun., Aug. 7

7:45–25 9:30–59 **TOTAL – 84** 

## This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Monday Parish Post Deadline

1:30 PM – String Rehearsal

Tuesday 7:00 PM – Preschool Board

Wednesday 6:00 PM—Nominating Committee

7:00 PM—Deacons Meeting

Thursday 12 Noon – Lunch with Pastor Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Eucharist

PRAYER CONCERNS: Hedwig Hunsicker, Carmen Richards, Kathy Baker (mother of Kayla Brennan), Donna Zirkel, Pat Seachrist, Don & Pat Miller, Brian Barr (son of John & Dolly Barr), Sam Minder III, Marlin "Moe" Weaver (brother of Dottie Schadt), Carole Connor, Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser, Robin McComsey (neighbor of Himelwrights), Rylan Brent (relative of Chuck & Sue Husted), Hank Fox, Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman, Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner), Dick & Sheryl Bell (friends of Pat & Stan Seachrist), Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer), Bob Kilgore, the Lehman family, Judy Barr (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Joann Garvin, Herb Charles, Rev. Phyllis Baum, Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer), Rev. Paul Eyer (former pastor of St. Luke's), Danielle Huggins Holbein, Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty), Mary Witmer, the Martin family, Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards), Hillary Brennan (mother of John Brennan), Jim Newcomer (cousin of Sandy DeLong), Pete & Nora Petrosky (friends of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer). Lvnn Dull, Hilma Slechta (mother of Mike Slechta), Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel), Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright), Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards), Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio), Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer), Nancy Patton, Gary Reynolds (friend of Mike & Shelley Wagner), Phyllis Zimmerman, Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards), John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law), Carl Roth (Gretchen Leinbach's brother), Rev. Frank Lantz, Lainie Christensen, Sandra Englert (niece of Betty Tyndall), Charles & Betty Booraem, Betty Tyndall and family, Dorothy Fasnacht, Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughterin-law), Bob & Marlyn Wible, Barry Moore (Donna & Ron Denlinger's brother-in-law), Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig), Judy Wisniewski (sister of Chuck Husted), Doris Leaman, Judie Bistline, and the Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church).

**LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR:** Bring your lunch and enjoy the fellowship on August 18 from noon-1 p.m. in Isenberg Hall!

THE JULY-AUGUST PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building. The deadline for the September Parish Post is Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**VBS MISSION PROJECT:** This year's VBS mission project is the Navajo Water Project Through DigDeep Right to Water Project. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission".

**NEW MEMBERS:** Are you interested in joining Trinity U.C.C.? Do you know of someone looking for a church home? Please speak to Pastor Chris about joining our congregation.

**DEVOTIONALS:** The July-September edition of *These Days* are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

# **Trinity Sunday School is Calling You!**

Teacher Positions are available at ALL Levels starting in the Fall 2022 Elementary, Middle/High School, and Adult

Join the team. Be a part of Christian Education.

No experience necessary. Training and mentors are available, if desired.



The only real qualification is to like learning and sharing of the Bible with others.

## Proverbs 22:6 (English Standard Version)

<sup>6</sup> Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it

#### **PICNIC SCHEDULE**

2:00 Set up by Picnic Committee

3:00 Welcome Table- Pick up your Name tag and handout for the Hymn Sing; Examine the guessing games and the schedule for the day; Pick up your Icebreaker Bingo Card and



a Pen; Place your Food items on the appropriate tables.

3:30 Hymn Sing - Gretchen Leinbach

4:00 Announcements, Prayer and Enjoy the food!

4:45 Icebreaker Bingo - completion/award prizes

5:00 Cake Walk. Announcement of Guessing Games winners - Anne.

Desserts become available.

5:30 Games begin:Brain Teaser Trivia - Cathy Bingo - Cherie/Denise, Face the Cookie Game — Cathy, Water balloon Toss — Kayla, Dress Up Relay - Cherie/Denise. Prizes for game winners awarded. Bocce Ball; Corn hole; Ladder Ball; Word Puzzles - all available throughout the picnic.

7:00 Clean-Up

Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. There is also a sign-up sheet for the cake walk at the church picnic.

**PRESCHOOL SUB FUNDRAISER:** There are still 11 Sub Coupons for S. Clyde Weavers available at \$8.00 each. Please contact the church secretary to purchase them.



We will be decorating the float on September 16<sup>th</sup> around 6 PM. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office. If you have any questions, please contact either Pastor Rankin or Anne Rankin.

**NURSERY COORDINATOR NEEDED:** We are hoping to revitalize our nursery care during the second service. The Board of Elders is looking for someone to contact volunteers and create a schedule. If you are interested, contact Pastor Rankin, Tim Geiger, Jeff Hackenberger, Donna Denlinger, Karen Olley, Kathy McCarty, or George DeLong.

## 2022 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS

Contact Carol in the church office to sign-up for chancel flowers and worship aids for 2022. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: August 28 & September 11, 18 & 25. Upcoming dates for worship aids are: September 4, 11, 18 & 25.



# Mt. Gretna Bible Festival 2022

All Programs are in the Historic Tabernacle • 3<sup>rd</sup> St. & Glossbrenner Ave.

Parking GPS Address: 41 Boulevard St, Mt. Gretna PA 17064

Please visit MtGretnaTabernacle.org for any program cancellations.

A freewill offering will be received at each program.

# **Summer at the Tabernacle**

# **Worship, Speakers and Concerts**

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE Updates will be posted on our website and Facebook page

#### August 14 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

Men in Harmony directed by Nathan Minnich. An all volunteer men's chorus of 20+ voices. Their musical repertoire includes sacred, classical, gospel, spirituals, hymn tunes, and patriotic songs.



August 21 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

The Susquehanna Chorale One of the premier choral groups in the nation, directed by Linda Tedford, makes its traditional late summer appearance. Sponsored by University Music Service of Hershey



August 28 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert QuintEssentially Brass A quintet with engaging personalities and sparkling instrumental performances ends another season.

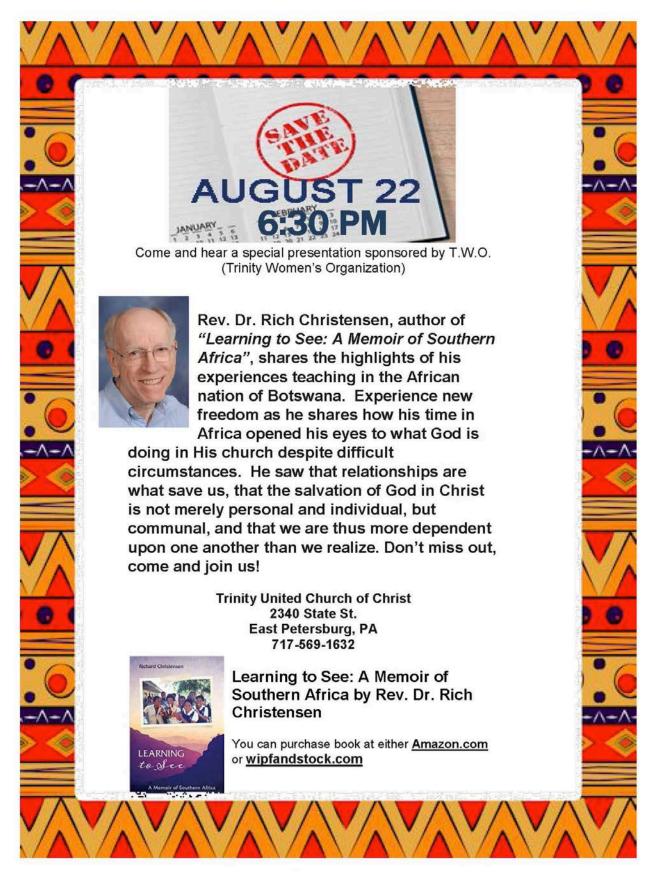


**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for worship volunteers on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office to sign-up!

**Greeters:** To welcome worshippers at the door for the second service.

**Ushers:** Beginning in June, we will return to passing the offering plate during the second service. We are in need of a few more ushers to complete our teams.

**Lectors:** Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 8:00 a.m. and/or 10:30 a.m. services.



Dr. Christensen will have books to sell at this event! The cost is \$28 and you can pay using cash or checks. **GIVING ONLINE:** Contributing your donation using our website: trinityeastpete.org....RESOURCES, PAY ON LINE.

For several years, members have been able to make weekly/recurring donations on-line in lieu of paying cash/checks or by mail. On-line donations save the cost of a check and envelope and if using the recurring feature, remembering weekly to prepare your envelope. Presently we have several individuals/families using on-line donations either weekly or recurring.

We believe that financial transparency builds trust and is a mark of stewardship so we want to take a moment to remind you that there is a small cost for this convenience. You'll have the opportunity to help cover the cost of processing when you give. Please know that this is 100% optional, but we appreciate your partnership in making your gift go as far as possible to impact our mission.

We have never asked our members to cover these costs especially since 2020 at the start of the pandemic. The costs are 1.05% when paying by check, 3.05% when paying by credit/debit card.

Beginning on July 1, we added a feature to our on-line giving whereby you can help to cover the costs of paying by check or debit/credit card. This is entirely **OPTIONAL**. There will be a check-off block to use if you wish to cover your transaction cost in addition to your contribution.

THE INTERIM COMPARATIVE (6 MONTH) FINANCIALS for Trinity Church are available on both levels of the church building. For more information, speak to Scott Owens (church treasurer) or a member of the Finance Committee.



THE PARK CITY DINER 884 Plaza Blvd. Lancaster, PA 17601 717-435-8512 parkcitydiner.us

# SHARING OUR SUCCESS The Knight and Day Diner The Park City Diner

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#### \*TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-East Petersburg\*

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The Park City and Knight and Day Diners want to thank you, the local community, for your votes, to honor our diners, 11 years in a row, as: THE BEST DINERS IN LANCASTER COUNTY!! We want to give back to the community by offering our "SHARING OUR SUCCESS" (SOS) Program to local non-profits. We will donate 10% of your sales to the non-profit listed above. During checkout, at either diner, please ask the cashier to donate your sale to the non-profit listed below. The card does not need to be presented. (please give the name as shown to avoid confusion). At absolutely NO additional cost, you will be helping your non-profit with donations every time you, your friends and relatives eat at either diner, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes take out meals, use of our free banquet rooms for meetings or parties.

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THE KNIGHT AND DAY DINER

10% of my bill will be donated to:

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, E. Petersburg





#### U.C.C. MISSION MOMENT

# August 14, 2022/Tenth Sunday After Pentecost Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Restore Us

In today's psalm, God's people are envisioned as a vine, planted and carefully tended by God. How might we participate with God in being planters and tenders of the church and its leaders?

Last winter, UCC President John Dorhauer and Pension Board President and CEO Brian Bodager encouraged church members to be vine tenders, as they described one of the crises facing church leadership.

"Seminary and educational debt, the debilitating nature of limited income and the uncertainty of a secure financial future represent a deepening crisis for many pastors in the United Church of Christ," they wrote in a joint letter. The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI) is a program to help ministers address this problem with practical tools. Participants in the program receive financial gifts of \$9,000 for debt reduction, \$1,000 to seed a retirement account and the support of a cohort of fellow pastors and financial experts.

The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative strengthens ministry in the UCC by:

- increasing and enhancing financial literacy among UCC authorized ministers, with a particular emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups within the denomination;
- assisting UCC ministers and their Ministry settings, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting of the Church in "breaking the conspiracy of silence" that exists around pastoral finances;
- providing financial assistance to UCC authorized ministers toward repayment of educational and personal debt as well as seeding of pension funds;
- engaging key lay leaders in UCC churches in collaborative efforts to identify and address the connection between pastoral financial challenges and ministry setting financial challenges; and;
- launching a major fundraising campaign to solicit major gifts that will enable the long-term sustainability, and continued expansion of the program

You can be a vine-tender along with God, planting and nurturing growth. One way is to support the MFVI with your gift at phucc.org.

#### FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

#### SECOND LESSON. Hebrews 11:29–12:2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### GOSPEL. Luke 12:49-56

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

N'SV

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